[Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai]

A Village Union is started in Suchindram. You cannot think of having a Syrian Catholic or an Ezhava there. If that be so, how can you expect in the Union a Syrian Catholic or an Ezhava to come by nomination? As members would have it, all important communities should be represented in such Unions. If that were so, we will have to import from some other part of Travancore a Syrian Catholic or an Ezhava to serve on the Union, as in the case of an Official Receiver who has been recently imported from the North of Travancore to Nagercoil. Sir, that appears to be very very absurd.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. The member is using the word 'absurd' in the course of his speech.

PRESIDENT: 'Absurd' is not unparliamentary.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: If Government are really serious in working these Unions what I would suggest is this. Suppose there is a place inhabited only by Nairs, Ezhavas and Syrian Catholics. I would suggest, Sir, that in the Village Union for this place a Vellala from South Travancore should be nominated so that it will be an incentive for him to work and develop that spirit to work for the benefit of the Nair, the Syrian Catholic and the Ezhava communities. I understand that in Monkompu there is a Village Union working. Monkompu is mostly inhabited by Brahmins. I would like to see an Ezhava and a Nair nominated to that Union so that they may be persuaded to work for the good of the Brahmin community and thereby promote communal harmony and thus to kill communal feud, the bane of our State.

There is another reason also, Sir. Perhaps in the well earned retirement days of Rajyasevapravina Nilakanta Aiyar in Monkompu.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I understand that this motion is to bring to the notice of Government the desirability of starting more Village Unions. I take it that the member says that the manner in which the Village Unions have been working so far is an argument for not starting more Village Unions.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, more Unions should never be started unless the existing Unions work properly.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH: Is it the opinion of the member that Travancore is not ripe to hold responsible Government in the near future?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: With the craze for communal representation, it is already going to dogs. To talk of responsible government is to talk of a mirage. It cannot at all work, as communal representation is incompatible with responsible government. That is why I always vehemently denounce communal representation in any form or in any place.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED: ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു സമുദായം ഒരു വില്ലേജ് യൂണിയൻ അതുത്തിസ്ഥലത്തു് ഇല്ലെന്നണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ സമുദായത്തെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് ആ യൂണിയനിൽ അംഗം വേണം എന്ന ആരെങ്കിലും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ?

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MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: ആണറബിം മെംബർ മി. പി. എസ്. മഹ്മ്മദ് തന്നെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി, "ഒരു വില്ലേജ് യൂണിയനിൽ പ്രബലസമുദായങ്ങളായ നായർസമുദായം, ഈഴവസമുദായം, മുസ്ലീംസമുദായം എന്നീ സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു തക്കതായ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം കൊടുത്തു യൂണിയൻ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ അഭിപ്രായം" എന്ന്.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED: ആ സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള പ്രബലസമുദായങ്ങളെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതല്ലാതെ ഇല്ലാത്ത സമുദായത്തെക്കൂടി പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: മെംബർ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ നിന്ന് ഞാൻ ധരിച്ചതു് ഇതാണ്. ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു് ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ പ്രബല സമുദായങ്ങളും അവരെക്കൂടാതെ അഞ്ചു ഈഴവരും എട്ടു് മുസൽമാന്മാരും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മി. മഹമ്മദിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായപ്രകാരം അതിൽ ഒരീഴവനും ഒരു മുസൽമാനും പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം കൊടുത്തേ തീരൂ എന്നാണ്.

PRESIDENT: These linguistic gymnastics are capable of leading to mental dislocation.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, this kind of communal representation should not be tolerated in such Unions. As an argument I may refer the honourable House to the result of the debate in regard to the motion for communal representation being adopted in Municipalities, The House went into the debate *in extenso* when the question of communal representation in connection with Municipalities was considered. There the House has declared unequivocally that such a proposition is not reasonable at all and shall not be countenanced even for a moment by the House.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will kindly bring his remarks to a close.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: If that position can hold good in regard to Municipalities, I ask, why honourable members should import here communal representation, in the matter of nomination to Village Unions.

MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTHOMMAN: യൂണിയനിൽനിന്നു തന്നെ പണം പിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥയില്ലേ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: വില്ലേജ്യൂണിയൻ പിരിക്കുന്ന പണം ഏറ്റവും തുച്ഛമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് പറയപ്പെട്ടതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ സമീപിക്കും. യൂണിയനിൽനിന്നും ഇത്ര രൂപ പിരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് അത്രയും രൂപയുടെ ഒരു ഗ്രാൻറിനുവേണ്ടി അവർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അടുക്കും. അതിനുള്ള ഒരു പണിയാണ് ഇതു്.

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MR TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTHOMMAN: അവർ ചെലവാക്കുന്ന ഇകയ്ക്ക് കണക്ക കാണിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: ചെലവു കാണിക്കാനുള്ള വഴികൾ ധാരാളമുണ്ടെന്നു മെംബർക്കുതന്നെ അറിയാമല്ലോ.

Unless and until Goverment are satisfied with the Village Union as are now started as an experimental measure, Government will not be justified in embarking upon more Unions. That is the long and short of my position.

PRESIDENT: Before this debate goes further, I should like honourable members to assist Government in regard to these matters. I am glad that this debate has been raised. Government are fully, and almost painfully, aware of the drawbacks of such institutions. Municipalities, Village Unions, Co-operative Societies—they are all doing no better than they should, let us assume. But in order to enable the people in the various localities to take some part in the management of civic and local affairs what is the other remedy that honourable members would suggest? It may be that this remedy may prove a failure. If it is a failure, Government would admit without any hesitation that the experiment has not succeeded. In the case of the co-operative movement as it is at present conducted, Government say that it is an admitted failure but, nevertheless, Government have come to the conclusion that if you abolish these present institutions some other institutions analogous to these institutions would have to be initiated. Therefore in further debates Government will be very grateful if what may be called suggestions for alternative action are also offered in addition to criticism.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI; Sir, my first point is that the Government should have a careful eye on the administration of these Village Unions. The second thing is that Government should be very careful in giving contributions to any Village Unions. They should see that these Unions collect an amount equal to the Government contribution before the latter is disbursed. The third thing is that there should be periodical checking of accounts. If these three things could not be effectively brought to bear upon Village Unions by the Government, I would seriously object to the starting of Village Unions any further. It is better that we do not have any local self-Government institutions as these than have such Unions as do not work properly.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: സർ, പ്രാദേശികസ്വയംഭരണസ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ എല്ലായിടത്തും വേണമെന്നു ഏറിയകാലം കൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണു്. മി. രാഘവയ്യാ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന കാലത്തു് വില്ലേജുപഞ്ചായത്തു് ഏർപ്പെടുത്താൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം ഞാൻ ചെയ്ത ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പൂർവ്വകാലങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാദേശികസ്വയംഭരണസ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഓരോ ഗ്രാമ

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ങ്ങളിലും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന എന്നാം അന്ന് അവ ഓരോന്നും വളരെ ശക്തി മത്തായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. ഇന്ന് റൂറൽ റീ കൺസ്ട്രക്ഷൻ എന്ന പറയുന്ന ജോലി ആ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളം വീണ്ടും സ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ആ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളം ഏതാണ്? ഇന്നത്തെ പകൃതികളോ, അതോ വില്ലേജുകളോ? പകൃതികളം ഇത്തരം സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ ഘടകങ്ങളാക്കുന്നതു് ഏറെവും പ്രായോഗികമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. ഏറെക്കുറെ വിസ്തൃതമായ ഒരു കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ ഇത്തരം സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അതിനകത്തു് താമസിക്കുന്ന പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടവരെ മാത്രം പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥയും ചെയ്യു. മി. ശിവതാണുപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ, സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനക്ഷമതയേയും ഗ്രാമാഭിവൃദ്ധിയേയും ലാക്കാക്കി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് ശേഷിമാന്മാരായ ആളുകളെ നോക്കി തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു് ഇത്തരം സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളം നടത്തുവാൻ ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഇന്ന് ഒരു ഗ്രാമത്തിന്റെ നാനാവിധമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി എല്ലാ ജനങ്ങളും അതുപോലെ കോവാപ്പറേറീവു് സൊസൈറി തുടങ്ങിയ ഗ്രാമീണസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും മുൻസിപ്പാലിറികളും എല്ലാം ഒരേ ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടുകൂടി ഗ്രാമാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുവേണ്ടി ഏകോപിച്ചു് ശാശ്വതമായി പ്രവത്തിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കഴിവു് ഇല്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതെന്ന് എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തിൽനിന്നും എനിക്ക് ബോധ്യം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വില്ലേജു റീകൺസ്ട്രക്ഷൻ ജോലികളം ആവശ്യമില്ല എന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. അവരുടെ ജോലികളം എന്തെല്ലാമാണെന്നു അവക്കു അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. വില്ലേജു റീകൺസ്ട്രക്ഷന്റെ സൃഷ്ടികർത്താവായ ഡാക്ടർ ഹാച്ചിനുപോലും അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാ എന്നു അഭിപ്രായം സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മാർത്താണ്ഡം വില്ലേജു റീകൺസ്ട്രക്ഷൻ സെൻറിലെ ഒരു പ്രസിഡൻറാണ് ഞാൻ. കഴിഞ്ഞ ആറേഴു വർഷംകൊണ്ടു് അതിനകത്തു നടക്കുന്നതായ ഏർപ്പാടുകളം അവർ എന്നെ അറിയിക്കുകയോ അതു് അറിയുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. ഞാൻ റൂറൽ റീകൺസ്ട്രക്ഷന്റെ ഒരു അത്താറിട്ടിയാണ്.

MR. THAMARAPALLL KOCHUTHOMMAN: വൈ. എം. സി. എ. ക്കാർ റൂറൽ റീകൺസ്ട്രക്ഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളം നടത്തുന്നില്ലയോ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: അവരും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളം നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അവരുടെയും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളം തൃപ്തികരമല്ല. മാർത്താണ്ഡം വൈ. എം. സി. എ. തുടങ്ങിയ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളം വളരെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെട്ട

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[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

മായ പല ജോലികളും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതു് ഒരു വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കു മാത്രം പ്രയോജനകരമായുള്ളവയാണെന്നു പൊതുവെ ഒരു അവജ്ഞയുണ്ടു്. അതു നീക്കി ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളെ ഒരു സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ കീഴെ ആക്കണം. അപ്രകാരമുള്ള സ്ഥാപനം എല്ലാ ജാതിമതസ്ഥന്മാക്കും പൊതുവായുള്ളതായിരിക്കണം. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ എല്ലാ ജാതിക്കാരുംകൂടി ഏകോപിച്ചു് ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റു് റൂറൽ റീകൺസ്ട്രക്ഷൻ കാൺഫറൻസു നടത്തണമെന്നു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഗവണ്മെന്റു് സകല സംഗതികളും പര്യാലോചിച്ചു് ഒരു കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ എല്ലാ സമുദായങ്ങളിലുള്ള അംഗങ്ങളും പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഒരാളുടെ അനാഥപ്രേതം അടക്കേണ്ടതായിവന്നാൽ ഒരു സ്ക്വാവഞ്ചറെപ്പോലും കിട്ടുകയില്ല. ടൗണിലാണെങ്കിൽ ഒരു സ്ക്വാവഞ്ചറെ വളരെ എളുപ്പം കിട്ടും. കാളറാ, കുഷ്ഠം ഈ രോഗങ്ങളിൽ ഒരാൾ മരിച്ചുപോയി എന്നുവന്നാൽ പ്രേതം മറവുചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കായി ഒരു സ്ക്വാവഞ്ചറേ ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ കിട്ടുന്ന കാര്യം വളരെ വിഷമമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു എന്തെന്നാൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള സകല പകുതികളിലും വില്ലേജു യൂണിയൻ വേണമെന്ന അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ശക്തിമത്തായി അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI Sir, a few days ago at the time of interpellations I asked the Chief Secretary whether, if any, information was available about the working of the Village Unions. I was told that as yet no administration report about Village Unions had been published and that no published report was available. Therefore there is no record by which we can gauge the work of the Village Unions. Yesterday we had the misfortune to hear several honourable members speaking very discouragingly about the work of these Unions. Mr. S. Narayana Pillai said that the Union to which he had the honour to belong has in all erected four lamp posts during the whole of its existence.

PRESIDENT: What is the period of its existence.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Two years. Within that period that Union was able to erect four lamps. At the same time he seemed to think that his Union is not behind any other in the uplift work.

PRESIDENT: You mean, lifting up all the lamp posts. (*Laughter*).

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes, Sir. If that is the work done certainly it is very discouraging. Government gives a grant. The Village Union starts work with that advance and by the time that amount is exhausted, the enthusiasm also gets exhausted. The Union reaches a moribund state. Mr. Narayana Pillai was pleading that the collection of tax from the locality may not be insisted for the time being and that the Village Unions may be allowed to continue to work for some time depending entirely upon Government grant. Sir, while the discussion was going on I was surprised why there was not at least one member who could get up and say that his Union had done something, even a little thing, which it could without the help of money. One can clearly imagine a variety of uplift works that can be carried on in a Village merely by the concerted action of the villagers without any financial aid from Government or any tax raised from the locality. Much can be done for the improvement of communications. Much can be done for the improvement of irrigation. Much can be done for the improvement of sanitation, all by the concerted action of the inhabitants of the village. It is really a regrettable fact that we had no encouraging information in that line from any honourable member yesterday. I am one who has got a religious faith in the potentialties of Village Unions and I am forced to say that I disagree cent per cent from Mr. Sivathanu Pillai in his contention that Village Unions are frauds. In a country like Travancore which is not only a series of villages but one continuous village, village Unions alone can bring us any salvation. In a place where there are only a few comparatively small towns, and the country consists mainly of rural population, uplift work can be done only by village organisations. Therefore, Village Panchayats, Co-operative Societies, and the Village Unions alone can, I believe, pave the path to the economic, sanitary and educational salvation of the rural population of Travancore. What is needed is not Government finance. What is needed is not even the raising of tax from the people. What is needed is really a spirit of service—what I would emphatically call the missionary spirit. There must be in a Union at least one person who would approach the problem with a missionary spirit with the determination to see that it succeeds. Then, I am sure, the Union will succeed. If when you think.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH: Does the member realise that the villagers are struggling for their existence and the missionary spirit requires a large amount of capital?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: I do not recognise that. On the contrary I think the missionary spirit does not depend upon capital. The spirit itself is the capital. Perhaps the most valuable capital, the undying capital, which moves every man to work is this spirit.

It guides every movement to inevitable success. Money will reach the hands of any person who has this spirit. As Mahatma Gandhi has repeatedly pointed out, there never has been an occasion throughout

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his life when he had to drop any of his schemes for want of money, because the guiding force, the 'spirit', was behind it. I do not agree with the position that rural reconstruction will depend on the amount of capital behind it. We have been hearing a lot about the various ways in which agriculture has to be improved, about consolidation of agricultural holdings, introduction of scientific cultivation and so forth. I cannot think of any other machinery except the Village Union and the co-operative movement to enable us to tackle the problem. We have heard a lot about cottage industries. We have heard that, with the inauguration of the Pallivasal scheme, various new cottage industries should be put into operation. We have heard a lot about finding suitable and profitable markets for our commodities. All this will depend on a chain of well-organised village unions. In the matter of education also, especially in the spread of literacy, the village union can do much work. No other organisation can carry on the spread of literacy as efficiently as village unions. Therefore, from every point of view I can think of no other efficient machinery than the village unions. Sir, it may be a fact that they have failed.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: After having known that village unions have failed, why does the member yet suggest at the same time the institution of other unions? Is it not false to present as a model an institution which has failed?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: I do not know who wanted to present as model a village union which failed. It requires no great intelligence not to present a failure as a model. On the contrary the failure was pointed out to show that similar failure may be avoided. What I want to say is this. Those unions might have failed; they might have discouragingly failed. But I cannot conceive for a moment that failure ought to be the reason for stopping an experiment. If, as Mr. Sivathanu Pillai pointed out, the village unions are frauds, if we are going to stop all institutions which have proved to be frauds then I think the municipalities should be stopped earlier.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: That is the reason why I suggested that village unions should be worked on proper lines if at all there is a proposal to that effect.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: That principle might have been followed in the case of municipalities and if several municipal bodies have proved to be false, they might have been stopped long ago. The Corporation of Trivandrum alone might have been retained as a model and all other mofussil municipalities might have been stopped but that was not done. In spite of failures, in spite of mismanagements, even misappropriation and defalcations, they were encouraged. Those persons who committed misappropriations of moneys were virtually encouraged. Therefore, I do not agree with the position that because an institution has failed it must be stopped, especially in a country where self-government is being tried. The failures are inevitable.

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MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I ask the member, whether co-operative societies are not scrapped in larger numbers year after year because of their futility ?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes, but at the same time I do know that various other co-operative societies are springing up. Institutions that have proved to be false are scrapped and those which are not false are allowed to grow up.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Can the member give one instance of an institution having been found to be working rather hopelessly being encouraged ?

PRESIDENT: I find that the time for this Demand expires at 12-50 P. M. I also find that more than 14 honourable members have spoken on this motion. As there are only a few minutes more, after Mr. Padmanabha Pillai's speech, I will ask the Chief Secretary to reply to the debate. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai should try to conclude.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

So then, even granting for argument's sake that village unions have failed, we are not for stopping them. If we are to accept that principle, we will have to stop all the institutions that have failed. By so doing, there will be only very few institutions left in this State. Therefore, when we are going to make experiments, especially on such an important question as self-government, government are bound to accept certain failures. I would request Government to allow us to fail. Failure is inevitable. I ask Government to allow us to carry on this experiment, to try and fail and through failure to succeed.

Sir, the other day, you said that in the case of municipalities and the University you would "give them a long rope." Please give us a long rope in the case of village unions, co-operative societies, Panchayats and, all local self-government institutions.

PRESIDENT: Is it to be a chronological one or ideological one ?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Both ways, Sir. At the end of the rope we will not be seen hanging. I am sure at the end we will come out successful. We will work and return back the rope to you and say that we have succeeded. Therefore, I would earnestly support the motion.

Sir, two years ago the Government set apart a sum of Rs. 50,000 for rural uplift scheme and placed a programme before the Legislature. Then I pointed out that a half-hearted attempt is not likely to succeed. I am always one who believes that there are several things where experiments will fail and decided action alone will succeed. There is a kind of hesitation that is inseparable from experiment. But on the contrary when Government take courage into their hands and say that they will see something a success I am sure that will succeed. Last year, out of Rs. 50,000 ear-marked for uplift work, Rs. 15,000 alone was spent. I would say, let Government, as was pointed out by Mr. P. S. Muhamed, even appoint a full-time officer, if necessary, for

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that kind of work. He must be one who has experience in this work and must be a man of status. He can go into the question sincerely and with a full heart, and see that the Government succeeds.

Therefore, I request Government not to dream of discouraging the movement, not to dream of stopping the movement, but to encourage it and to institute as many unions as possible, at the earliest opportunity.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether in the composition of the Union, the principle of communal representation is to be adopted?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: It is too late now to think of answering the question.

MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTHOMMAN: തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വില്ലേജ് യൂണിയൻ സ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്ന ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദവമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിൽ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ പല ജാതിക്കാരാണ് താമസിക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ നാനാജാതിക്കാരും ഏകോപിച്ച് താമസിക്കുന്നതായ പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളും ഉണ്ട്. മങ്കൊമ്പിൽ പോലും പല ജാതിക്കാർ നിവസിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. യൂണിയൻ എന്നുവച്ചാൽ ഐകമത്യം എന്നാണർത്ഥം. ഓരോ ദേശങ്ങളിലും ഓരോ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ വില്ലേജ്യൂണിയൻ സ്ഥാപിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കടമയാകുന്നു. ഓരോ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലും താമസിക്കുന്നതായ ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളും ഹിന്ദുക്കളും മറെറല്ലാ ജാതിക്കാരും വളരെ യോജിപ്പോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതായി കണ്ടുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെൻറു സഹായം കൂടെക്കൂടി ലഭിച്ചാൽ ഇവരുടെ സൌഹാർദ്ദമനസ്ഥിതി കൂടെക്കൂടി ശക്തിപ്പെടും. തിരുവല്ലതാലൂക്കിൽതന്നെ ജനങ്ങളാൽ വെട്ടപ്പെട്ട പല റോഡുകളും ഉണ്ട്. ആ ദേശത്തു താമസിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ ജാതിക്കാരും കൂടിയാണ് ഈ റോഡുകൾ വെട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ എല്ലാഭാഗത്തും ഈ വിധം ഒരു യോജിപ്പ് കാണാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നു എനിക്കു സംശയമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത് വില്ലേജ്യൂണിയനിൽ എല്ലാ ജാതിക്കാരും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുകയും അവർ എല്ലാവരും ഏകോപിച്ച് നാട്ടിന്റെ നന്മയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാകുന്നു.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: ബ്രാഹ്മണരിൽ ഇത്രപേർവേണം, ഈഴവരിൽ ഇത്രപേർ വേണം, ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളിൽ ഇത്രപേർ വേണമെന്നു മെമ്പറിനു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTHOMMAN: ഇങ്ങനെ വേണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം എനിക്കു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. നമ്മുടെ പ്രാദേശികാവ

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വശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയാണ് വില്ലേജ്യൂണിയൻ രൂപീകരിക്കേണ്ടത്. അതിൽ എല്ലാ ജാതിക്കാരും യോജിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. അവർ തമ്മിൽ യോജിപ്പ് ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ജനങ്ങളെ കൂടുതലായി സഹായിക്കണം. അങ്ങനെയായാൽ ഓരോ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലുള്ള എല്ലാ ജാതിക്കാർക്കും യോജിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കും ഇതും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Sir, I am thankful to the honourable members for the valuable suggestions made by them in the course of the debate. Most of the members took part in the discussion which is clear evidence, if evidence was wanted, to show that they recognise the importance of the village unions in the rehabilitation of villages. It is clear from discussions that the Village Unions have not made as much progress as would be desired. But to say that they have done nothing at all and that the whole thing is a big fraud on the public is unfair. I regret I am not in a position to state what all things the village unions have done and what they propose to do in the near future. I have in another connection stated that full reports in respect of the working of Village Unions and Panchayats have been called for. But Government have information that some useful work had been done by some at least of the Village Unions. I am sure that Mr. Narayana Kurup (who is not now here) will testify to the good work that is being done by the Pulinkunnam Village Union. Sir, my information is that about forty foot bridges have been constructed, that some canals have been deepened, and that negotiations are in progress for the opening of village roads connecting the several parts of the pakuthi, the lands required being surrendered free of cost and the people interested contributing labour free of cost. Some similar useful work in the shape of improving canals has been done in the Kumarakam Village Union also. If these two village unions could do useful work I do not see any reason why others should not do so. However, I concede that the present village unions have not done as much as was expected. This is due to a variety of causes. Some honourable members have said it is due to the Tahsildar being President some others have stated it is due to official preponderance. And some members said that it is on account of want of representation from all parts of the villages. One honourable member said that respectable people were not nominated to the union. Another member said that the whole thing was due to delay in correspondence. It has also been suggested that village unions should be left entirely to the people, uncontrolled by the Government.

Before proceeding further into the matter let me state the circumstances under which the Village Unions Act V of 1115 was passed and some village unions constituted. The honourable members are aware that there is in the statute book an Act called "The Travancore Village Panchayat Act VII of 1100". The title of the Act itself is significant,

[Mr. Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar]

It reads thus;—An act to provide for the fostering and developing of self government in rural areas. As the mover of the bill himself said, "the object of the Government is to make the village a vital part in the system of Government. That experiment will make the village self-reliant and influential and imbued with a high sense of civic responsibility. The Panchayat has absolute powers to collect and dispose of money and to attend to certain duties that are mentioned in the Act and has autonomy to a very large extent. The control of the Government is simply to help these institutions in their working at the initial stage and the control may be wholly relaxed after a certain time." Seven Village Panchayats were accordingly constituted in 1100. These Panchayats have been doing some useful work. But Government were not satisfied with the progress they were making. It was therefore resolved to start another experiment. The Village Unions Act IX of 1115 was thereupon enacted; 26 Village Unions have already been started and 13 more are to follow.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know the result of the investigation with regard to the failure of the unions?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: I am coming to that. The general observations I have already made in respect of Panchayats apply with equal force to Village Unions also.

It might be said in fairness to the Village Unions that it is too early to condemn their working. They were established only in the 2nd half of 1115 and the necessary rules under the Act were passed and published after 3 months. Hence the budgets of these unions could be sent up only during the current year. They were approved and issued only in Thulam 1116. The budgets contain provision for the improvement of village communications, construction and repair of culverts and small bridges, maintenance of rural sanitation, installation of street lights etc. The total amounts allotted for public works and sanitation come to Rs. 9,466 and Rs. 4,748 respectively.

Six Village Unions have provided funds for the appointment of midwives in their respective areas; and thirteen of them have made provision for the purchase and maintenance of seed bulls or for the award of grant to the owners of such bulls. Similarly, many unions have proposed to establish cattle pounds. Other activities proposed to be taken up by these local bodies include supply of drinking water, establishment of night schools, maintenance of burial and burning grounds, construction of manure pits, improvement of agricultural implements, clearing of silt from irrigation channels and canals, literacy campaign, encouragement of cottage industries, etc.

As the bye-laws for all the unions have not been finally approved and issued, there may be some difficulty for he collection of cesses and taxes.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: May I know whether separate bye-laws have to be passed for each union?

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RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Government are framing a set of model bye-laws which will be useful for all the unions. They are being examined.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Has Government made any standard of the maximum rate of tax to be collected by the unions?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: The maximum and minimum rates have been fixed by the Legislature.

I shall next proceed to deal with the suggestions made by the honourable members. One of the suggestions is to remove the Tahsildar from the presidentship.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has 3 minutes more.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: I may at once concede that Government are willing to abide by the decision of the House. But the matter requires looking into carefully. I shall now explain why the Tahsildar was thought of for the presidentship. The local requirements of a village consists mostly of (1) opening new village roads and canals (2) improving irrigation tanks etc. There was a time when all this work was attended to by the people themselves for reasons which we need not go into now. That system has now fallen into disuse. Let us take it that the union resolves to improve an existing canal or a village road. The first thing to be done is to find out if there are any encroachments. If the Tahsildar is a member, he immediately sees to it that the encroachments are removed and the lands vacated. The Tahsildar may also use his influence in inducing recalcitrant people to surrender the lands free of compensation. We have not reached that stage when non-officials alone can easily get such works of public utility done. The public and the officers should co-operate for such works. It is true that some of the Tahsildars have tight work. But I cannot understand why the Tahsildar cannot find the time to spend an hour or two once a week to look after the public interests. It is his duty to do so.

A good portion of the ryots roads in the State are in the Tiruvalla taluk and most of these roads were constructed by the people themselves on account of the help rendered to them by the then Tahsildars. If the Tiruvalla Tahsildar could see that the people of that taluk could construct about 300 to 400 miles of roads in that taluk, I do not see any reason why the Tahsildars of other taluks cannot do so.

It has been said that there is official preponderance. The rules provide for 11 members for the Village Unions; 5 of whom are officials and six non-officials. The activities connected with rural uplift consist of (1) increase of production (2) prevention of waste and (3) improvement of health. Unless the departments concerned, I mean, the Agricultural Department, the Public Health Department, the P. W. Department and also the Co-operative Department co-operate, it will not be possible to do any appreciable work in rural uplift. That is one of the reasons why Government have selected—

PRESIDENT: The time for the demand is over. Do you press your motion, Mr. Mathai Chemparathy?

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MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHI : I do not press it.

The motion, was by leave, withdrawn.

Motion Nos. 14 to 48.

The following motions lapsed as the time allotted for the demand had expired :

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :

14. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :

15. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI :

16. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR:

17. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHI :

18. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM :

19. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI :

20. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU :

21. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :

22. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN

23. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI :

24. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI :

25. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI :

26. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :

27. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :

28. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER :

9. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

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MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :
30. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :
31. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :
32. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR :
33. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,62,431 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
34. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,200 for salaries by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :
35. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,508 for Publicity Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. P. S MUHAMED :
36. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,099 for Legal and Legislative Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :
37. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for Secretary by Re. 1.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
38. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for Secretary by Re. 1.

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU :
39. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,225 for establishment (permanent) by Re. 1.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN :
40. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,225 for establishment by Re. 1.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN :
41. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,586 for Public Service Recruitment by Re. 1

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :
42. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,586 for Public Service Recruitment by Re. 1.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR :
43. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,586 for Public Service Recruitment by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :
44. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,586 for Public Service Recruitment by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN :
45. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,586 for Public Service Recruitment by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :
46. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,586 for Public Service Recruitment by Re 1.

MR. P. S MUHAMED :
47. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for Acts and Proclamations revision of by Re. 1.

MR. N. VELU ACHARI :
48. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,28,224 under Demand XI by Re. 1.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 3,28,224 under Demand XI—General Administration—Excluding Financial Secretariat, Accountant-General's office, Treasury Department and Legislative Bodies, was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XII.

MR. R. RAMA VARIER : Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 3,05,815 under Demand XII—General Administration—Financial Secretariat, Accountant General's Office and Treasury Department,

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Motions 1 to 7.

The following motions were not moved :

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,222 for allowances to the Financial Secretary by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :

2. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,245 for Financial Secretariat by Re. 1.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

3. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :

4. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,87,731 for Accountant-General's office by Re 1.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

5. To reduce the allotment of Rs 66,514 for Sub-Treasuries by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :

6. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,839 for Treasury Establishment by Re. 1.

MR. MURUKKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN :

7. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,839 for Treasury Establishment by Re. 1.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 3,05,815 under Demand XII—General Administration—Financial Secretariat, Accountant-General's office and Treasury Department, was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 46,000 under Demand XIII General Administration—Legislative Bodies.

Motion No. 1.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI : Sir, I beg to move, to reduce the allotment of Rs. 41,300 for travelling allowances by Re. 1, to discuss the desirability of effecting retrenchment in the allowances of the members of the Legislature.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI. I rise to a point of order. I wish to point out that it would be out of order if the House were to discuss any one of these motions because they are all token motions and there are rulings that a token motion is a censure motion. Now a censure passed by the House under this demand will not be a censure on Government but the House itself and the impropriety of such a procedure the honourable members will have to take into consideration before they make the motion. For myself, as a custodian of the privileges of the House, I would point out that it will be highly irregular to pass a censure on itself.

PRESIDENT : Let me understand the position. Supposing this House in a fit of penitence or repentence comes to the conclusion that the members have been drawing T. A. which they ought out and they choose to suggest that all T. A. should be abolished. In that case how does the honourable member say that the motion is out of order ?

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: It may lead to personal recrimination and certain honourable members will be saying that certain other honourable members were drawing T. A. which they were not legitimately entitled to.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will bear with me and clear my difficulty. What is the appropriate legal or official procedure by which this House can express its opinion that such a remuneration or allowance as has been drawn by the honourable members was inappropriate or excessive? How is it to be done in the course of the discussion?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: My impression is that Government must have been responsible for allowing the honourable members to draw T. A. more than they were legitimately entitled to draw and a censure motion on Government for not discouraging the practice would have been quite appropriate. T. A. is drawn in accordance with rates passed by Government. But to say that this House has been irregular or wrong in drawing more T. A.——

PRESIDENT: It does not satisfy my position. Supposing the House were to say that out of the savings from the T. A. which are curtailed, Village Unions should be helped. How is it to be done from the legislative or the official point of view? There is a great deal to be said in favour of the cogency of the arguments of the Legal Remembrancer. But I do not think that I can rule the motion out of order.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether it cannot be done by passing a resolution?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Yes, that can be done. But a cut motion means a censure motion. Is the House in order in censuring itself?

PRESIDENT: There are such things as penitence and self-immolation.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, this is a motion to effect retrenchment in the allowances of the Members of the Legislature. The members of this House are not responsible for fixing the rate of T. A. or halting allowance. It is the Government that is responsible for fixing the rate. So the censure will be on the Government and not upon the House.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 0' clock.

[The House adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and reassembled at 2 P. M.]

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I raised a point of order that as the members of the Assembly are not responsible for fixing the rate of their T. A. the cut motion should have been brought under General Administration and not under Legislative Bodies. As it is, the motion is out of order.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, my object was only to express my opinion in the matter. But I appreciate the point of order raised by the Legal Remembrancer and so I withdraw the motion.

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